

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 15-2006

Minutes of a meeting of the Public Health and Social Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 at 2:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Timms, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Angelone; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Harry; Katzman; Marshall; Trombetta.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Dr. Sider, Associate Medical Officer of Health; Ms. Gilroy, Regional Clerk; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Community Services Dept.: Mr. Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels and Homelessness; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities; Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services.

Public Health Dept.: Mr. Christensen, Director, Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. Gordon, Manager, Dental Programs; Ms. Hague, Manager, Infectious Disease, Clinical Services; Mr. Hunter, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion; Mr. Jones, Director, Administration; Ms. Jugley, Manager, Community Mental Health; Dr. Klooz, Associate Commissioner, Public Health Dept.; Ms. LaCroix, Manager, Infectious Disease, Clinical Services; Mr. Laflamme, Manager, Health Protection and Promotion; Ms. Rix, Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention; Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention.

Others: Mr. Kyne, Director, Legal Services.

OPERATIONS (STATUS REPORTS)

237. 2006 Ontario Works Services Contract
COM 65-2006

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report COM 65-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting 2006 Ontario Works Services Contract, be received; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2006 Ontario Works Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (Provincial Subsidy = \$12,702,954/Regional Levy = \$6,788,696).

Carried.

238. 2006 Ontario Works Service Contract Enhanced
Family Support Initiative (EFSI)
COM 66-2006

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report COM 66-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting 2006 Ontario Works Service Contract Enhanced Family Support Initiative (EFSI), be received; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into the 2006 Ontario Works Enhanced Family Support Initiative (EFSI) Service Contract with the Ministry of Community and Social Services (100% Provincial Subsidy = \$125,000/Regional Levy = \$0).

Carried.

239. 2005 Mandatory Program Compliance
– Control of Infectious Diseases
PHD 83-2006

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 83-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting 2005 Mandatory Program Compliance – Control of Infectious Diseases, be received for information.

Carried.

240. 2005 Mandatory Program Compliance
- Infection Control
PHD 84-2006

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Report PHD 84-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting 2005 Mandatory Program Compliance – Infection Control, be received for information.

Carried.

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES (STRATEGIC PLANNING/POLICY)

241. The Public Health Department's Updated Strategic Plan 2003-2006/2007-2010 (2006-2007 Strategic Goals)
PHD 85-2006

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report PHD 75-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting the Public Health Department's Updated Strategic Plan 2003-2006/2007-2010 (2006-2007 Strategic Goals), be received; and

That the Public Health Department Updated Strategic Plan be endorsed by Committee and Council.

Carried.

INFORMATION

242. Dental Indices Survey 2005-2006 Update
PHD 86-2006

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That Report PHD 86-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting Dental Indices Survey 2005-2006 Update, be received for information.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

243. Correspondence PHSS 47-2006
Memorandum from Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services
Re: Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) Resolution

Mr. Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, together with Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, informed Committee on the status of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) in Niagara. Mr. Hutchings advised that Community Services relies on SCPI to ensure that emergency shelters and support agencies are able to positively impact the lives of people who are homeless. The total SCPI investment in Niagara was \$1,937,990 in the most recent round of SCPI (2003-2007). Other agencies were approved for capital improvements to enhance emergency shelter services. Approximately \$368,190 supports three Niagara agencies to provide direct client homelessness services. Ms. Pennisi advised that indications are that SCPI will continue but at greatly reduced funding levels. The 2007-2008

funding year will see SCPI funding Canada wide fall to \$2.2 million from the \$133 million allotted in 2006-2007. Mr. Hutchings commented that this reduced investment by the federal government will hinder Niagara's ability to maintain current service levels, noting that Niagara's Homelessness Program is currently underfunded.

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Harry

That PHSS 47-2006, memorandum from Brian Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services, regarding Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) Resolution, be received and the resolution to the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, be endorsed, **as amended**, and to read as follows:

"WHEREAS the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) is intended to strengthen the capacity of community organizations to address the needs of people who are homeless; specifically by

- Increasing the number of emergency beds/transitional beds
- Matching adequate pay/work opportunities for homeless individuals
- Developing knowledge based on homelessness Issues
- Building community capacity/sustainability of homelessness activities
- Increasing community awareness of homelessness, and

WHEREAS SCPI encourages multi-sectoral and multi-organizational collaboration for service delivery and funding; and

WHEREAS funding for numerous organizations' projects in Canada and Niagara is dependant on receiving SCPI funding; and

WHEREAS the one year extension of SCPI is set to expire March 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS SCPI funding ensures that essential shelters and related support services for homeless people are maintained in Niagara and in communities across Canada; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Municipality of Niagara **implores** that SCPI funding continue, on an annual basis, past the March 2007 expiry date at equal to or greater than 2003-2007 funding levels."

Carried.

Copies of the above resolution are to be forwarded to:

- Ms. Marg Garey, Director of Citizen and Community Services, Service Canada Niagara Region
- Area Municipalities
- Associations of Municipalities of Ontario
- Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)

- Local M.P.s
- Boys and Girls Club of Niagara
- Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold
- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

(Please note that Correspondence item PHSS 47-2006 can be found behind PHSS Report PHSS 15-2006 in the Blue Book.)

INFORMATION (continued)

244. Oral Report – D. Ventresca, Director Seniors Services
Re: Bill 140, Long-Term Care Homes Act

Mr. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services, provided an update on Bill 140, Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2006. The Act has been through second reading in the Ontario legislature and Standing Committee hearings are expected to be held in Toronto in November with passage anticipated as soon as December. Mr. Ventresca presented the key highlights of the Act, based on staff's preliminary review of the Act and on information provided by the Province and the Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS). Committee was apprised of the key issues and concerns relating to the Act as analyzed by members of OANHSS and specialized legal counsel retained by OANHSS. Staff recommends that the Regional Chair correspond with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to request an extension of the period for broad public consultation and specifically the period for the review of Bill 140 (Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2006) by the Standing Committee to at least February or March 2007, in order to provide reasonable opportunity for new municipal councils to assess the proposed legislation and provide recommendations.

Moved by Councillor Angelone
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That the Regional Chair correspond with the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to request an extension of the period for broad public consultation and specifically the period for the review of Bill 140 (Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2006) by the Standing Committee to at least February or March 2007, in order to provide reasonable opportunity for new municipal councils to assess the proposed legislation and provide recommendations; and

That staff seek a legal opinion and response to the key issues and concerns outlined in the report.

Carried.

(Speaking Notes can be found behind Report PHSS 15-2006 in the Blue Book.)

OTHER BUSINESS

245. Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)

Councillor Timms, Committee Chair, advised that alPHa will be having its Annual All Members General Meeting on February 1st and 2nd, 2007 at which time there will be an orientation session for all new members of the Boards of Health. Some items on the agenda are the Clean Water Act and the response to the Capacity Review Committee recommendations as developed by the Mayors and Regional Chairs Committee of Ontario (MARCO). This document will be forwarded to all members of Council electronically.

CLOSED SESSION

246. Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Marshall

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to personnel, property and legal matters.

Carried.

247. A Matter of Potential Litigation
Affecting the Municipality
COM 63-2006/PHD 88-2006 (Confidential)

Moved by Councillor Harry
Seconded by Councillor Angelone

That Confidential Report COM 63-2006/PHD 88-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting A Matter of Potential Litigation Affecting the Municipality, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

248. Per Diem Rate for HOPE House
COM 64-2006 (Confidential)

Moved by Councillor Trombetta
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That Confidential Report COM 64-2006, October 31, 2006, respecting Per Diem Rate for HOPE House, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Carried.

249. Oral Report – Personnel Issue

Mr. Bill Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion, provided an oral report regarding a Personnel Issue.

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That the oral report by Mr. Bill Hunter, Manager, Health Protection & Promotion, regarding a Personnel Issue, be received and referred to the Director of Legal Services for a legal opinion.

Carried.

250. Oral Report – Personnel Issue

Ms. Ellen Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention, provided an oral report regarding a Personnel Issue.

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the oral report by Ms. Wodchis, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention, regarding a Personnel Issue, be received.

Carried.

251. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3:40 p.m., to meet again in Committee of the Whole on Thursday, November 23, 2006 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters.

D. Bruce Timms
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk